PLANETARY™ PREVIEW INSIDE!

GEN 13®

image

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GEN13®

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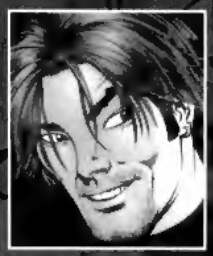
MEET THE GEN13!

Meet the Gen13! Rainmaker, Freefall, Grunge, Burnout, and Fairchild. These Gen-Active teenagers, first generation descendants of the legendary Team 7, were recruited into I.O.'s program, Project Genesis, a project secretly intended to develop superhumans. Upon discovering that the program was nothing more than a breeding ground for Gen-Actives, they escaped the compound with the help of renegade I.O. agent, John Lynch, and to this day remain fugitives.

IN CASE YOU'RE JUST JOINING US...

As hurricane Claudia blew through the Florida Keys, John Lynch and Alex Fairchild had a major storm of their own. Fueled by nagging feelings of jealousy and self-doubt (and not a little bit of alcohol), Lynch lost his cool in a big way. After being subdued by Alex Fairchild, the two men used their powers to shield themselves and Gen13 from the power of the encroaching storm. Except for Roxy and Sarah—where did they disappear to this time?

FAIRCHILD: Caitlin Fairchild. The daughter of Team 7's Alex Fairchild. Deemed the unofficial leader of the group, Fairchild possesses super-human strength, speed, agility and intelligence.



GRUNGE: Percival Edmund Chang. The son of Team 7's Philip Chang. This slovenly, cold pizza-eating party animal has the power to mimic the molecular structure of any material he touches.

BURNOUT: Bobby Lane. The son of John Lynch. Burnout can project high energy plasma, which bursts into flame when exposed to oxygen. He is impervious to heat and can fly by creating thermal updrafts.

RAINMAKER: Sarah Rainmaker. Apache born,Rainmaker has the ability to control the natural elements. She can also fly by manipulating the air currents and can direct water with a simple gesture. The amplifier bands she wears on her wrists enables her to deliver very potent electric blasts.

FREEFALL: Roxanne Spaulding. The youngest and spunkiest of the team, Freefall can void the pull of gravity and levitate herself or any other being or object she desires.

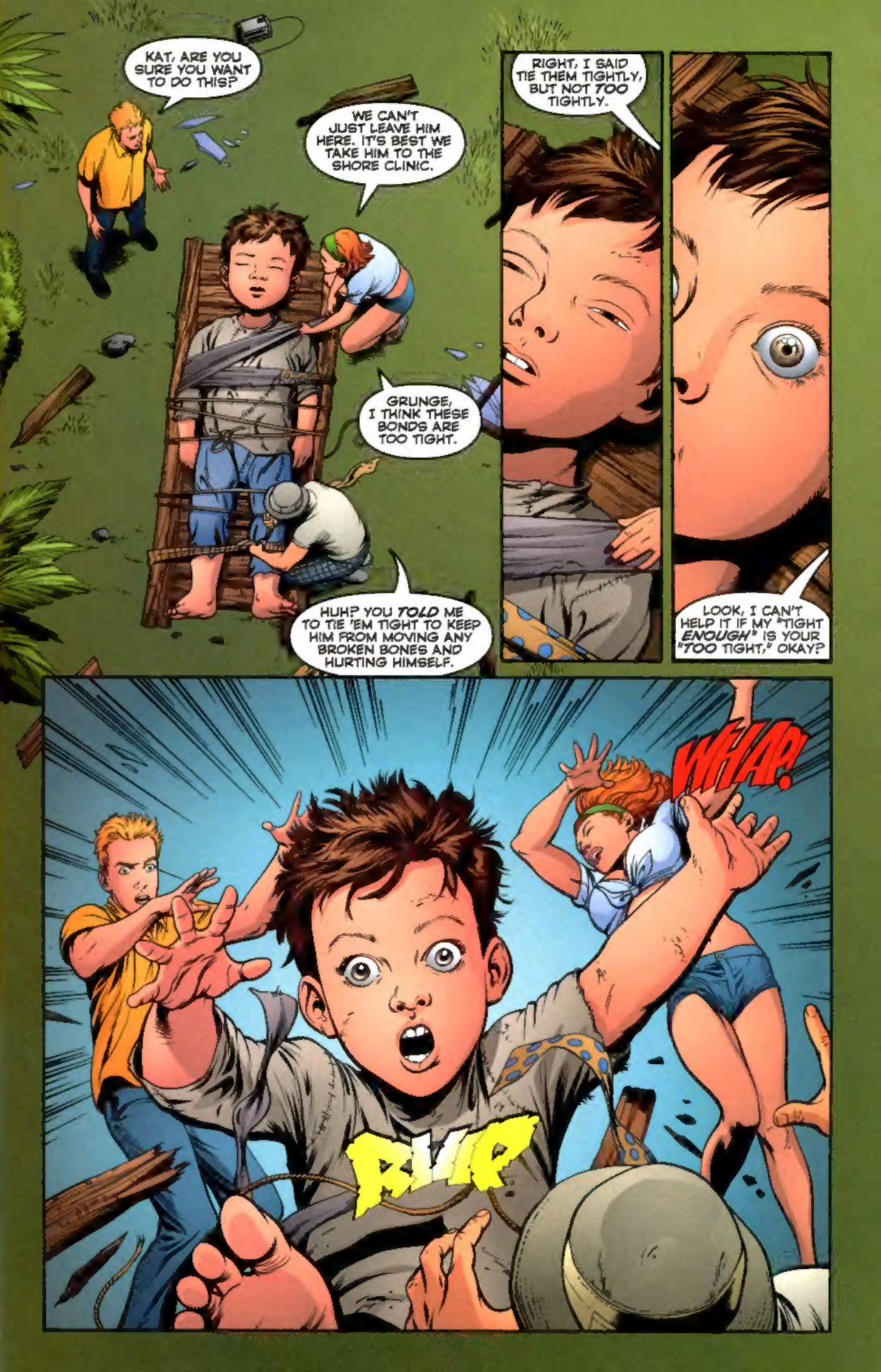
Gen13 #33 September 1998. FIRST PRINTING. Image Comics, Inc. Office of Publication: 1440 N. Harbor Blvd., Suite 305, Fullerton, California 92835. Direct Market: $2.50 U.S./$3.80 in Canada. Gen13 and all other prominent characters are ™, ®, and © Aegis Entertainment, Inc., dba WildStorm Productions, 1998. Artwork © Aegis Entertainment, Inc. 1998. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Jim Lee or Aegis Entertainment, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA

MAN, THIS IS LIKE A *JUNGLE*. THERE'S JUST NO WAY SARAH AND ROXY CAME HERE. LET'S LOOK SOMEWHERE ELSE.
WE LOOKED *EVERYWHERE* ELSE, MAN. THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE THEY COULD BE.
UNLESS THEY'RE NOT ON THE ISLAND AT ALL. HURRICANES CAN DO THAT, YOU KNOW.
MAYBE IT'S TIME WE FOCUSED OUR ATTENTION ON THAT POSSIBILITY, GRUNGE, BECAUSE THIS FOREST IS DEFINITELY *NO-MAN'S* LAND.
YEAH? WELL, TELL ME SOMETHIN'. THIS *NO MAN* GUY--
--DOES HE BUILD HOUSES?
THIS...THIS IS INCREDIBLE! IT LOOKS LIKE IT MUST BE AT LEAST 150 YEARS OLD.
AND IT'S SO *BIG*.
UHH, THAT KINDA FIGURES.

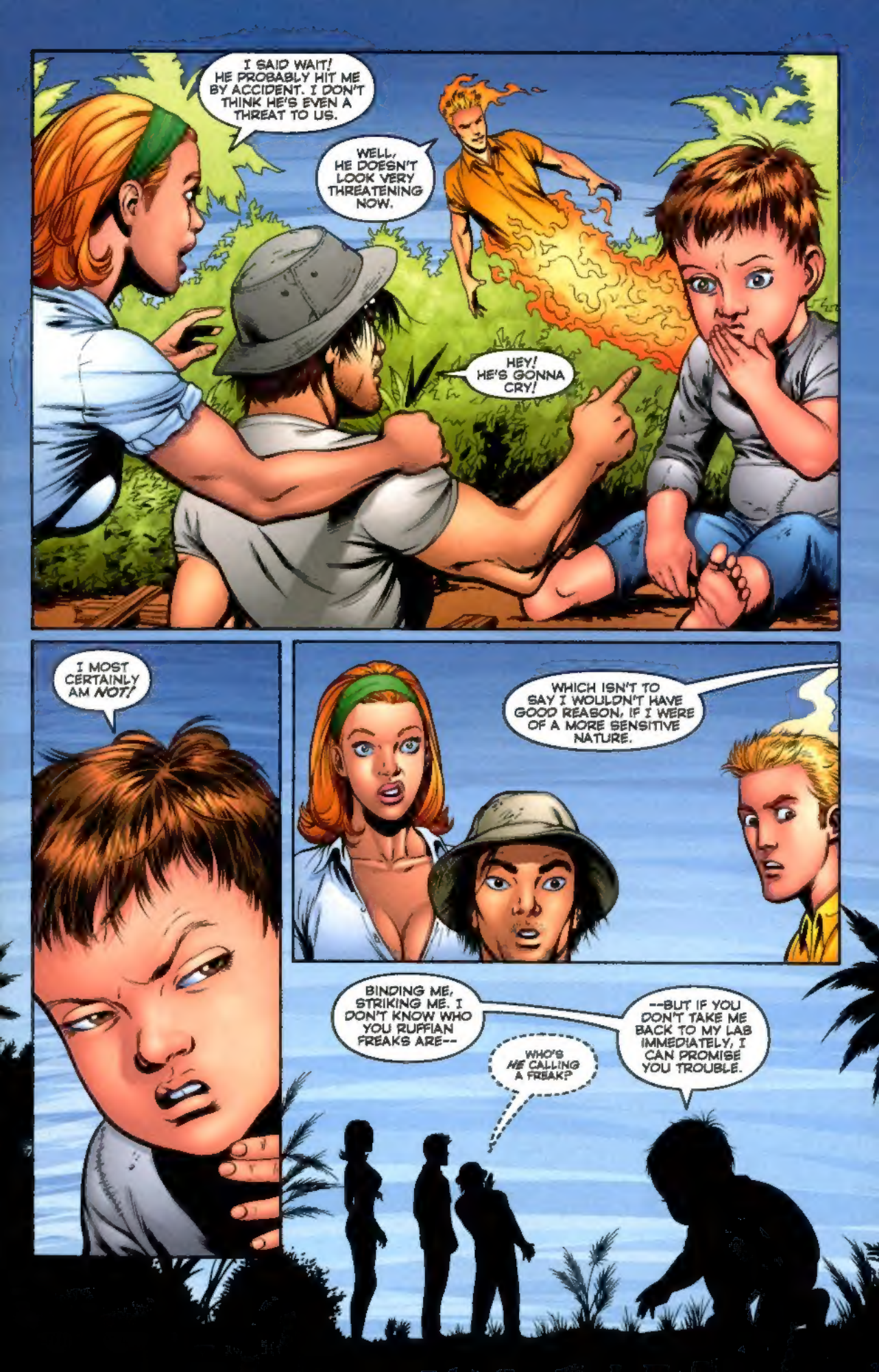
BURNING THE CANDLE AT BOTH ENDS
JOHN ARCUDI TALL TALE
GARY FRANK THE BIG PICTURE
GAM SMITH INKY IMMENSITY
WILDSTORM FX COLOR-OSSUS OF RHODES
AMIE GRENIER & DENICE PARK LETTERING LARGE
SCOTT DUNBIER LOOKING DOWN ON IT ALL

HARD TO FIGURE, ISN'T IT?
I MEAN, HOW THESE TWO BUNGALOWS HERE GOT TOTALLY DESTROYED--
--BUT THE STORM DIDN'T DO ALMOST ANYTHING TO THOSE HUTS JUST A FEW YARDS AWAY.
HURRICANES'RE LIKE THAT, THOUGH. MOODY. THEY PICK AND THEY CHOOSE.
WELL, THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU'RE OKAY--AND THAT MY INSURANCE'LL COVER ALL THIS.
WELL, YOU PAID UP TILL THE END OF YEAR, NOW DIDN'T YOU? SO I GUESS YOU'D BETTER TAKE A COUPLE OF THE EMPTY HUTS.
ME, I HAVE TO HEAD BACK UP TO TAMPA. ON A SCHEDULE, DON'T YOU KNOW.

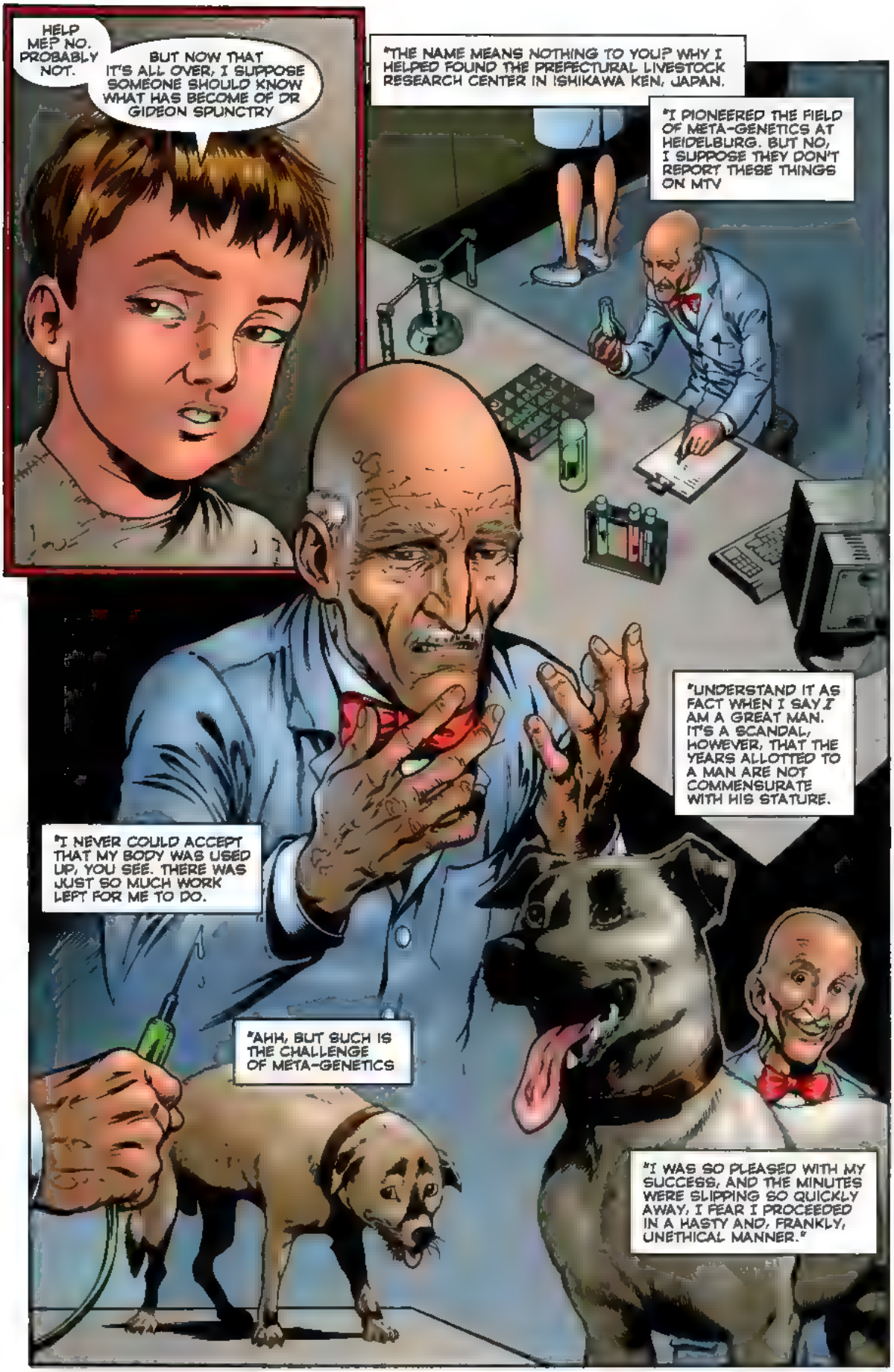
ALEX, I--
DON'T! OKAY?
DON'T APOLOGIZE TO ME AGAIN. THERE'S TOO MUCH BLAME TO GO AROUND FOR THAT.
MAYBE, BUT I'M THE ONE WHO LOST CONTROL.
AND I DIDN'T? LOOK AROUND, JOHN. SELF-RESTRAINT THIS ISN'T.
ALEX, YOU COULD HAVE KILLED ME ANYTIME YOU WANTED TO, JUST AS YOU SAID--YOU COULD HAVE, BUT YOU DIDN'T.
YOU DID HOLD BACK BECAUSE YOU KNEW I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE JUICE TO STOP YOU.
WHICH IS A GOOD THING, BECAUSE IF I DID--
LOOK, YOU WERE DRUNK, OKAY?
YEAH, I WAS DRUNK--AND FRUSTRATED AND ANGRY, AND PARANOID.
ALL THE THINGS A GOOD LEADER CAN'T BE.

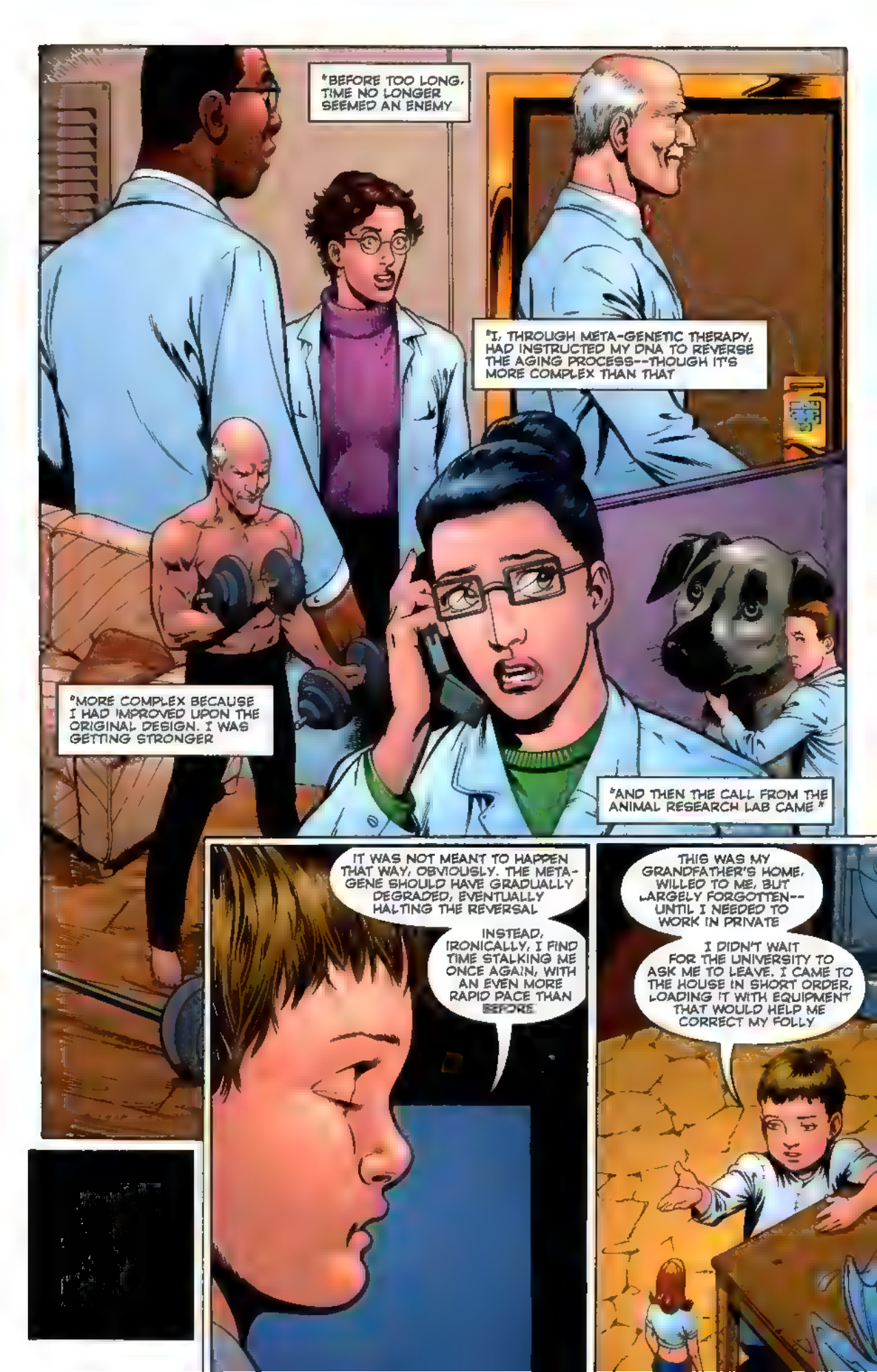

KAT, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM HERE. IT'S BEST WE TAKE HIM TO THE SHORE CLINIC.
GRUNGE, I THINK THESE BONDS ARE TOO TIGHT.
HUH? YOU TOLD ME TO TIE 'EM TIGHT TO KEEP HIM FROM MOVING ANY BROKEN BONES AND HURTING HIMSELF.
RIGHT, I SAID TIE THEM TIGHTLY, BUT NOT TOO TIGHTLY.
LOOK, I CAN'T HELP IT IF MY "TIGHT ENOUGH" IS YOUR "TOO TIGHT," OKAY?
WHAP!
RIP

WATCH OUT!! HE'S AWAKE, AND ANGRY!
DON'T WORRY, BOBBY. I CAN TAKE CARE OF BABY HUEY HERE.
NO! WAIT!!
CRAK!
FOOMP!!


I SAID WAIT! HE PROBABLY HIT ME BY ACCIDENT. I DON'T THINK HE'S EVEN A THREAT TO US.
WELL, HE DOESN'T LOOK VERY THREATENING NOW.
HEY! HE'S GONNA CRY!
I MOST CERTAINLY AM NOT!
WHICH ISN'T TO SAY I WOULDN'T HAVE GOOD REASON, IF I WERE OF A MORE SENSITIVE NATURE.
BINDING ME, STRIKING ME. I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU RUFFIAN FREAKS ARE--
WHO'S HE CALLING A FREAK?
--BUT IF YOU DON'T TAKE ME BACK TO MY LAB IMMEDIATELY, I CAN PROMISE YOU TROUBLE.

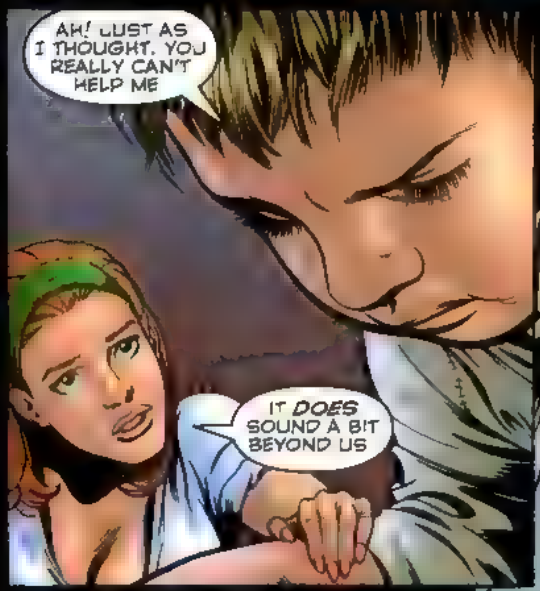
LISTEN, I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOUR LAB IS. MAYBE IF YOU TOLD US--
OH! OH!! NOW I REMEMBER--
--THE HURRICANE!!
NOOOO!!!!
DO ALL THE FATES CONSPIRE AGAINST ME?
I'M SORRY, MR....I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL YOU.
IF YOU'D TELL US WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.


HELP ME? NO. PROBABLY NOT.
BUT NOW THAT IT'S ALL OVER, I SUPPOSE SOMEONE SHOULD KNOW WHAT HAS BECOME OF DR GIDEON SPUNCTRY
"THE NAME MEANS NOTHING TO YOU? WHY I HELPED FOUND THE PREFECTURAL LIVESTOCK RESEARCH CENTER IN ISHIKAWA KEN, JAPAN.
"I PIONEERED THE FIELD OF META-GENETICS AT HEIDELBURG. BUT NO, I SUPPOSE THEY DON'T REPORT THESE THINGS ON MTV
"UNDERSTAND IT AS FACT WHEN I SAY I AM A GREAT MAN. IT'S A SCANDAL, HOWEVER, THAT THE YEARS ALLOTTED TO A MAN ARE NOT COMMENSURATE WITH HIS STATURE.
"I NEVER COULD ACCEPT THAT MY BODY WAS USED UP, YOU SEE. THERE WAS JUST SO MUCH WORK LEFT FOR ME TO DO.
"AHH, BUT SUCH IS THE CHALLENGE OF META-GENETICS
"I WAS SO PLEASED WITH MY SUCCESS, AND THE MINUTES WERE SLIPPING SO QUICKLY AWAY, I FEAR I PROCEEDED IN A HASTY AND, FRANKLY, UNETHICAL MANNER."


"BEFORE TOO LONG, TIME NO LONGER SEEMED AN ENEMY
"I, THROUGH META-GENETIC THERAPY, HAD INSTRUCTED MY DNA TO REVERSE THE AGING PROCESS--THOUGH IT'S MORE COMPLEX THAN THAT
"MORE COMPLEX BECAUSE I HAD IMPROVED UPON THE ORIGINAL DESIGN. I WAS GETTING STRONGER
"AND THEN THE CALL FROM THE ANIMAL RESEARCH LAB CAME."
IT WAS NOT MEANT TO HAPPEN THAT WAY, OBVIOUSLY. THE META-GENE SHOULD HAVE GRADUALLY DEGRADED, EVENTUALLY HALTING THE REVERSAL
INSTEAD, IRONICALLY, I FIND TIME STALKING ME ONCE AGAIN, WITH AN EVEN MORE RAPID PACE THAN BEFORE
THIS WAS MY GRANDFATHER'S HOME, WILLED TO ME, BUT LARGELY FORGOTTEN--UNTIL I NEEDED TO WORK IN PRIVATE
I DIDN'T WAIT FOR THE UNIVERSITY TO ASK ME TO LEAVE. I CAME TO THE HOUSE IN SHORT ORDER, LOADING IT WITH EQUIPMENT THAT WOULD HELP ME CORRECT MY FOLLY

AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS, I FELT I HAD MADE GENUINE PROGRESS--WHEN THE STORM HIT
AND IF YOU CAN'T REVERSE THE PROCESS?
WHY, DEAR GIRL, ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS?
YEAH!
COOL.
WHAT!? WHAT WAS THAT?!! YOU FIND MY PLIGHT AMUSING?
DR. SPUNCTRY PLEASE
YOU THINK SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU CAN CHANGE INTO ROCK THAT YOU'RE IMMUNE FROM REPRISAL, BOY?!!
Pixies

HMMM. THOSE ABILITIES OF YOURS, THEY SEEM COMPATIBLE WITH META-GENETICS. ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF ME?
LISTEN, MAN, THAT'S A WEIRD, SAD STORY, BUT WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOME FRIENDS OF OURS--KINDA URGENTLY, LIKE--SOOOO. .

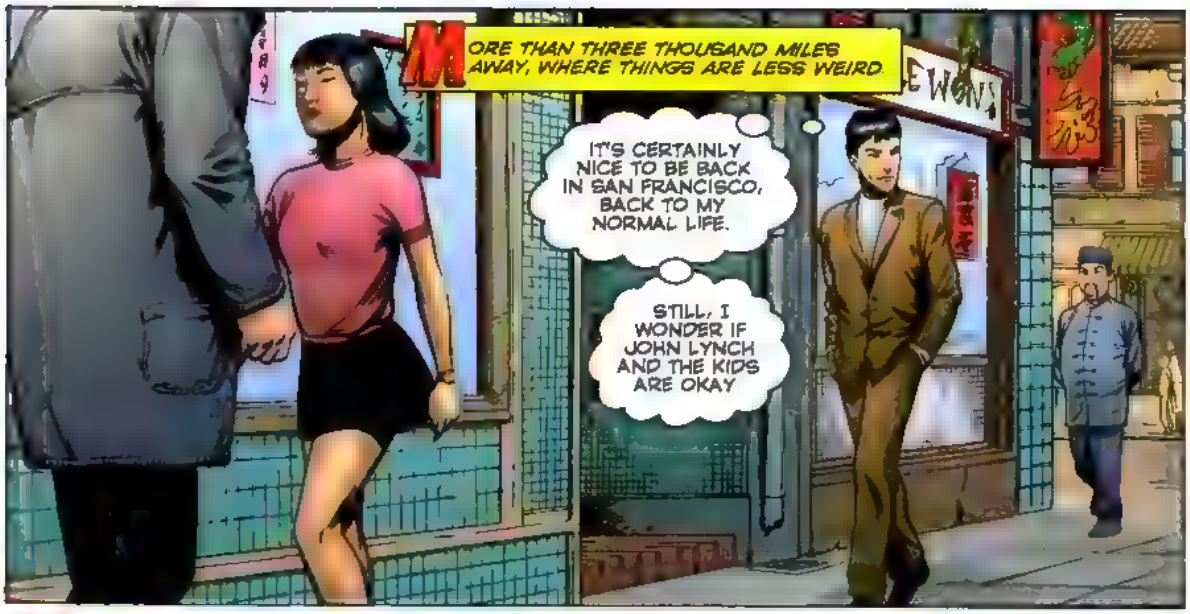

AH! JUST AS I THOUGHT. YOU REALLY CAN'T HELP ME
IT DOES SOUND A BIT BEYOND US

HERE WE GO. HERE COME THE WATERWORKS

DAMN YOU LITTLE CRETIN, I AM NOT GOING TO CRY!!

WELL, NO MATTER, I SUPPOSE. EVEN IF YOU COULD RENDER ME AID, I STILL WANT OF ONE NECESSARY COMPONENT TO AN EFFECTIVE EXECUTION OF MY TREATMENT
WHAT'S THAT?

AN ADEQUATE HEAT ENGINE


MORE THAN THREE THOUSAND MILES AWAY, WHERE THINGS ARE LESS WEIRD.
IT'S CERTAINLY NICE TO BE BACK IN SAN FRANCISCO, BACK TO MY NORMAL LIFE.
STILL, I WONDER IF JOHN LYNCH AND THE KIDS ARE OKAY

UHF!
OOPS, SORRY, FRIEND

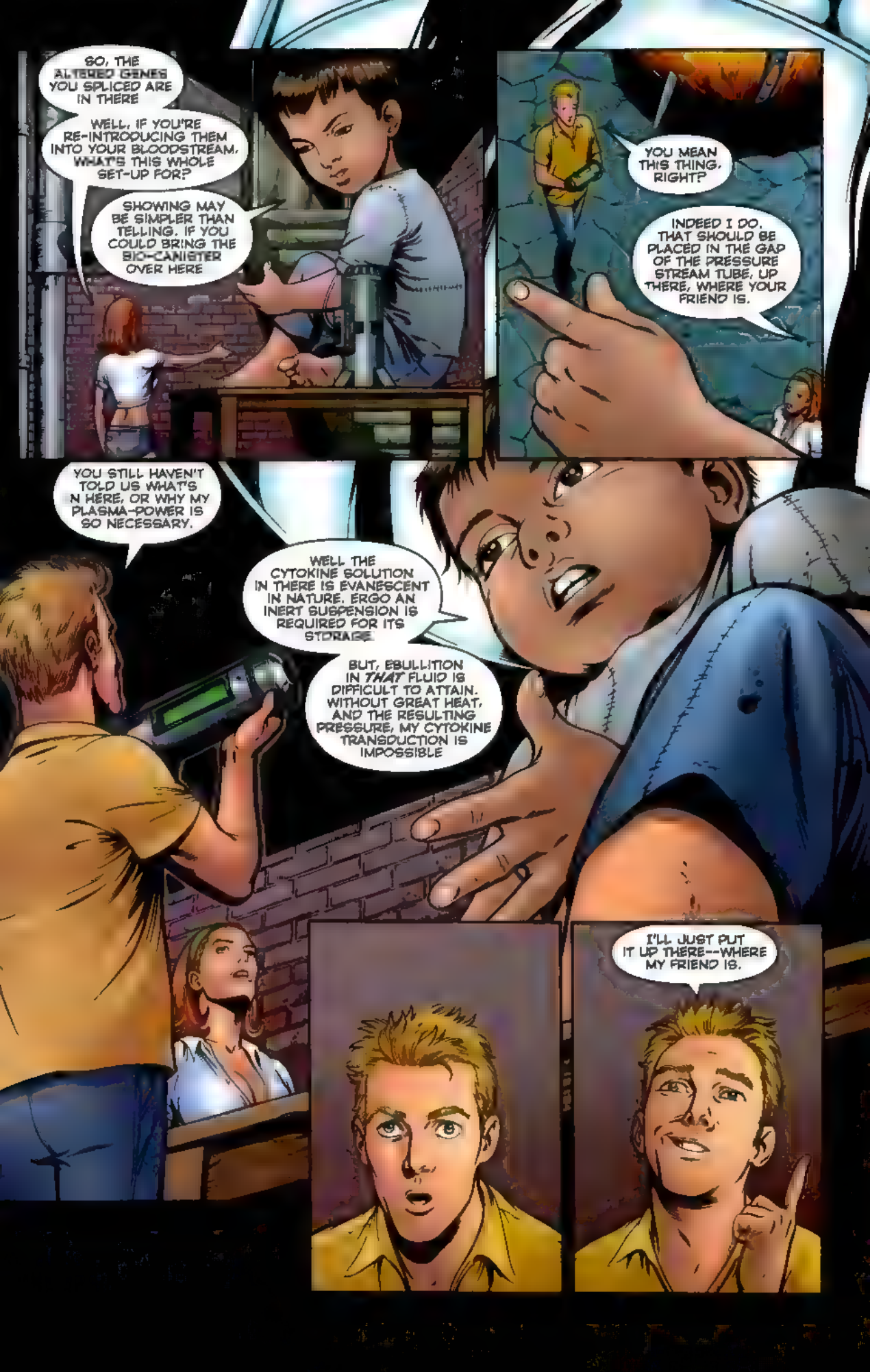
HEY, AIN'T YOU--? YEAH, YOU'RE DR. SIMON TSUNG.
ERR, SOME PEOPLE SAY I LOOK LIKE HIM, YES, BUT--

LOOK LIKE HIM? PLEASE, DOC! WHO YOU TRYIN' TO KID?
WHY, THIS IS A REAL HONOR FOR ME, THAT'S WHAT IT IS
I--I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, BUT I'M IN A HURRY. THERE'S Uhhh, THERE'S SOMEWHERE I HAVE TO BE

OH, I KNOW THAT, DOC.
AND I'M GONNA TAKE YOU THERE.

#@%@ING HURRICANE, BLEW MY HOUSE DOWN GOTTA FIND A SAFER PLACE TO REBUILD THE WHOLE DAMN THING.
BUT THAT'S OKAY. THAT'S JUST FINE
I COULD FEEL THE EYES OF A.T.F. SCOPING OUT MY LAST LITTLE HIDEY-HOLE ANYWAY.
CAN'T STAY IN ONE PLACE TOO LONG NOT WHEN EVERY FEDERAL AGENT IS ON YOUR TAIL.
HUH? WHASSAT RUCKUS?
CLINK
CHEBNG CHEBNG CHEBNG
BANG
WHOOSH
????

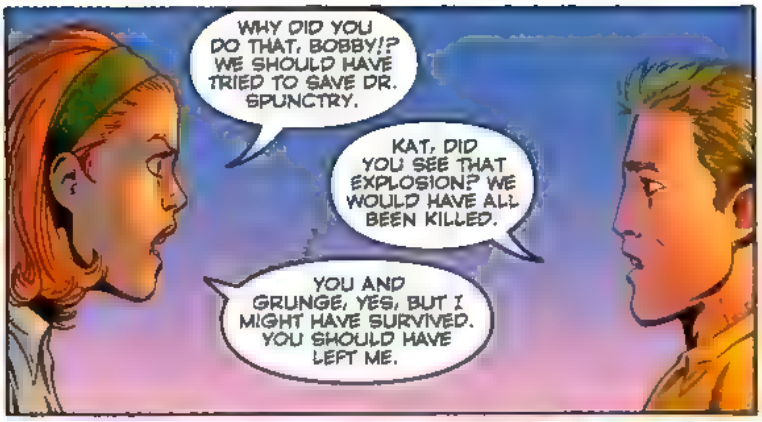
Y'KNOW, WE'RE LOSIN' VALUABLE DAYLIGHT OUT THERE.
SHUT UP, GRUNGE!
I KNEW'D IT. DIDN'T I KNOW IT? AIN'T THIS *EXACTLY* WHAT I PREDICTED?
THEM SUPER-F B I AGENTS DONE COME HERE TO GROW AN ARMY OF GIANT SOLDIERS IN THEIR WAR AGAINST AMERICAN PATRIOTS
I GOTTA GO WRITE THIS DOWN IN MY BOOK.

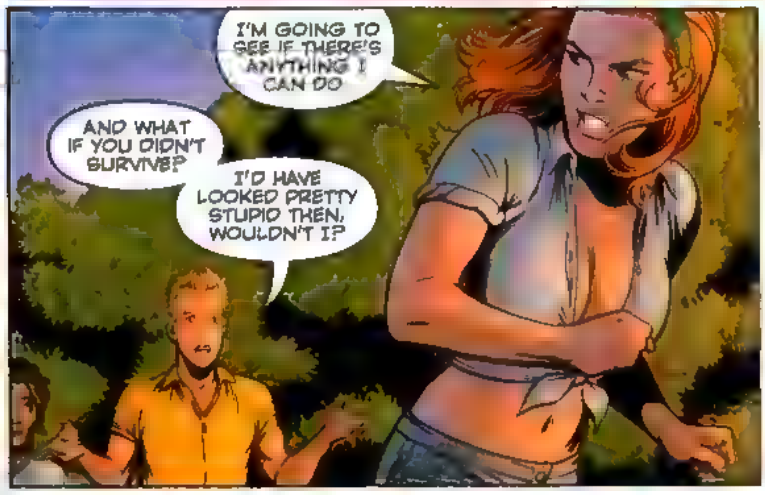

SO, THE ALTERED GENES YOU SPLICED ARE IN THERE
WELL, IF YOU'RE RE-INTRODUCING THEM INTO YOUR BLOODSTREAM, WHAT'S THIS WHOLE SET-UP FOR?
SHOWING MAY BE SIMPLER THAN TELLING. IF YOU COULD BRING THE BIO-CANISTER OVER HERE
YOU MEAN THIS THING, RIGHT?
INDEED I DO. THAT SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE GAP OF THE PRESSURE STREAM TUBE, UP THERE, WHERE YOUR FRIEND IS.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD US WHAT'S N HERE, OR WHY MY PLASMA-POWER IS SO NECESSARY.
WELL THE CYTOKINE SOLUTION IN THERE IS EVANESCENT IN NATURE. ERGO AN INERT SUSPENSION IS REQUIRED FOR ITS STORAGE.
BUT, EBULLITION IN *THAT* FLUID IS DIFFICULT TO ATTAIN. WITHOUT GREAT HEAT, AND THE RESULTING PRESSURE, MY CYTOKINE TRANSDUCTION IS IMPOSSIBLE
I'LL JUST PUT IT UP THERE--WHERE MY FRIEND IS.

WITHIN AN HOUR, THINGS ARE WELL UNDERWAY
IT'S HARD TO TELL, BUT I DON'T THINK ANYTHING'S HAPPENING
HEY!! LOOKIT THAT!!
WA T IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE THERE?
I DON'T KNOW, KAT. IT DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD.
KAT, GRUNGE, THIS OLD BOILER WASN'T BUILT FOR THIS KINDA HEAT. THIS IS NUTS, I'M GOING TO STOP.
NO!! NOT NOW!! JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES!!
KWOOOOM
DAMN! TOO LATE!!

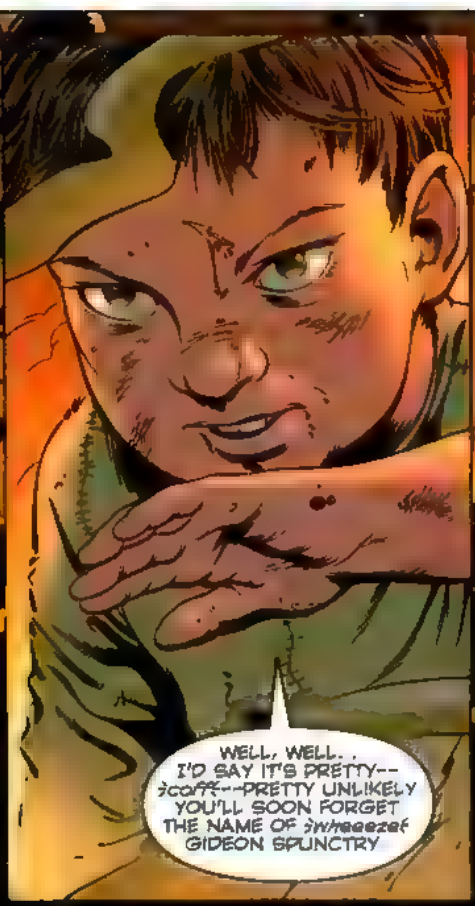
HOLD ON, PEOPLE. WE'RE OUTTA HERE
BUT BOBBY!! WHAT ABOUT GIDEON?
CRAAAK
THERE'S NO TIME!!!

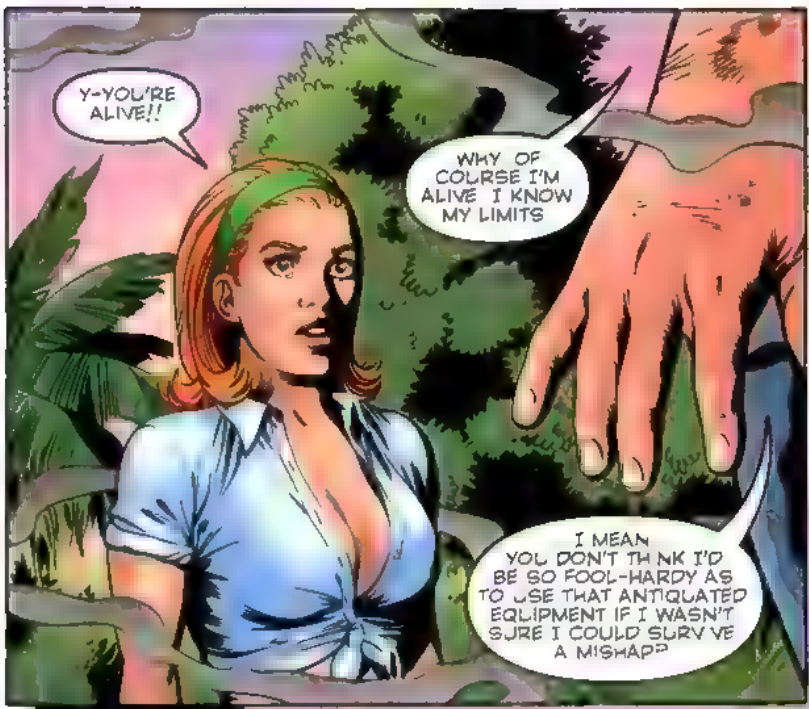
CHAY-ZIS! THAT WAS CLOSE

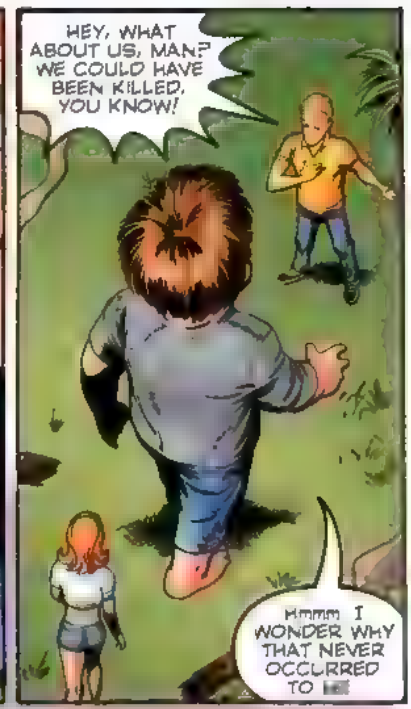

WHY DID YOU DO THAT, BOBBY!? WE SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO SAVE DR. SPUNCTRY.
KAT, DID YOU SEE THAT EXPLOSION? WE WOULD HAVE ALL BEEN KILLED.
YOU AND GRUNGE, YES, BUT I MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED. YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT ME.

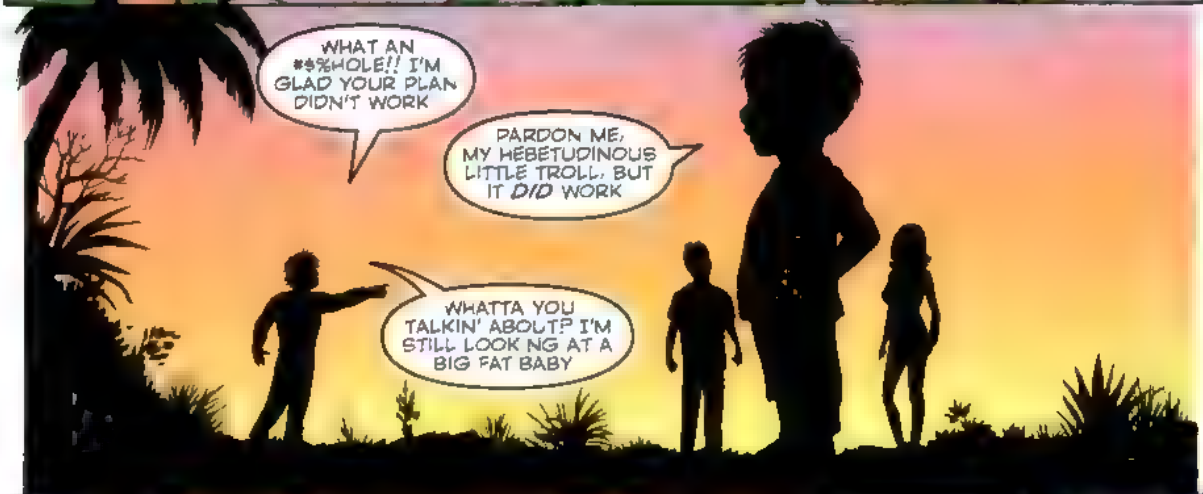

I'M GOING TO SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO
AND WHAT IF YOU DIDN'T SURVIVE?
I'D HAVE LOOKED PRETTY STUPID THEN, WOULDN'T I?

kaff-kaff-- MY, BUT WASN'T THAT AN EXPERIENCE? hack!

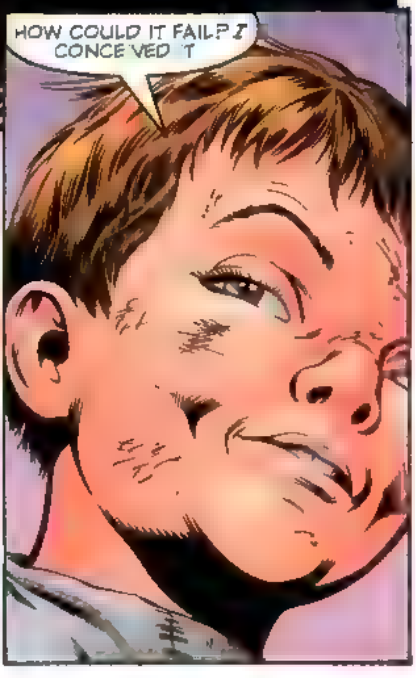

WELL, WELL... I'D SAY IT'S PRETTY-- cough--PRETTY UNLIKELY YOU'LL SOON FORGET THE NAME OF wheeze GIDEON SPUNCTRY

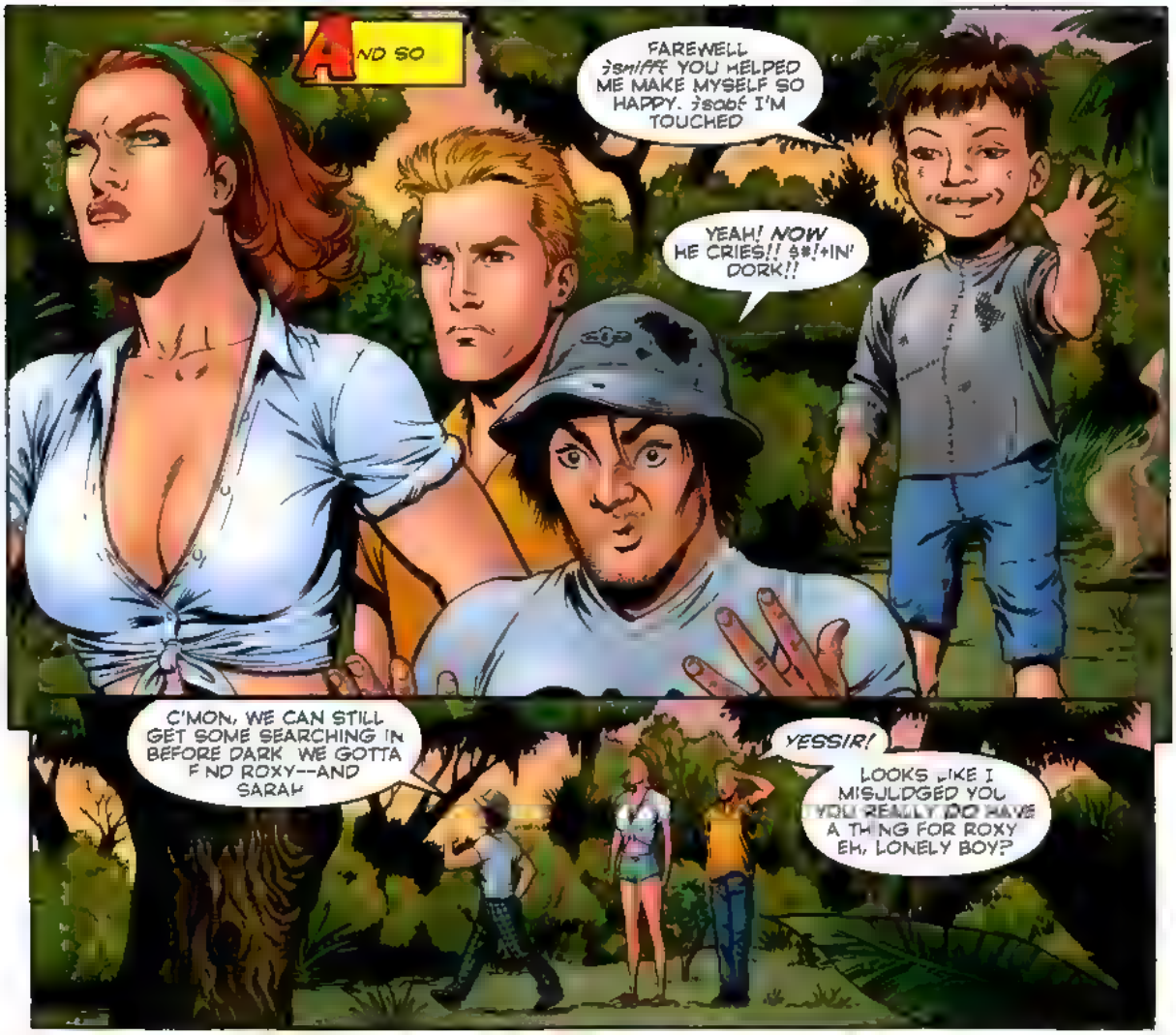

Y-YOU'RE ALIVE!!
WHY OF COURSE I'M ALIVE I KNOW MY LIMITS
I MEAN YOU DON'T TH NK I'D BE SO FOOL-HARDY AS TO USE THAT ANTIQUATED EQUIPMENT IF I WASN'T SURE I COULD SURV VE A MISHAP?


HEY, WHAT ABOUT US, MAN? WE COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED, YOU KNOW!
Hmmm I WONDER WHY THAT NEVER OCCURRED TO


WHAT AN #$%HOLE!! I'M GLAD YOUR PLAN DIDN'T WORK
PARDON ME, MY HEBETUDINOUS LITTLE TROLL, BUT IT *DID* WORK
WHATTA YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? I'M STILL LOOK NG AT A BIG FAT BABY

THINK--OR AT LEAST TRY IT TOOK OVER A YEAR FOR ME TO GET THIS WAY I'M NOT ABOUT TO CHANGE IN A SPLIT SECOND IT SHALL TAKE A WHILE
THEN HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE THE PROCEDURE WORKED?
Sixies


HOW COULD IT FAIL? I CONCEIVED IT


AND SO
FAREWELL ¡SNIFF! YOU HELPED ME MAKE MYSELF SO HAPPY. ¡SOBÉ! I'M TOUCHED
YEAH! NOW HE CRIES!! $#!+IN' DORK!!
C'MON, WE CAN STILL GET SOME SEARCHING IN BEFORE DARK. WE GOTTA FIND ROXY--AND SARAH
YESSIR!
LOOKS LIKE I MISJUDGED YOU. YOU REALLY DO HAVE A THING FOR ROXY, EH, LONELY BOY?

DUDE, A HURRICANE CAME THROUGH HERE. THEY COULD BE HURT, AND YOU'RE MAKING JOKES?
SO YOU REALLY THINK THAT TWO GIRLS WHO CAN FLY, SHOOT LIGHTNING, AND CONTROL THE WIND CAN'T TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES?
NAH! SOMETHING ELSE IS GOING ON HERE

I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW, BOY, THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'D BE HONORED TO BE YOUR BEST MAN
BITE ME, FIREBOY!

I DON'T KNOW, JOHN. I FEEL RATHER STRANGE ABOUT GOING THROUGH ROXY AND SARAH'S PRIVATE THINGS LIKE THIS.
YESTERDAY THEY WERE PRIVATE TODAY THEY'RE JUST SHY OF GARBAGE
ANYWAY, THERE COULD BE VALUABLE CLUES SOMEWHERE IN THIS WRECK AS TO WHERE THEY MIGHT HAVE GONE, SO KEEP LOOKING.
Diary
I KNOW WHY WE'RE DOING IT, IT JUST FEELS FUNN--
WHAT'S THIS?
OH NO
JOHN, WE'VE GOT REAL TROUBLE

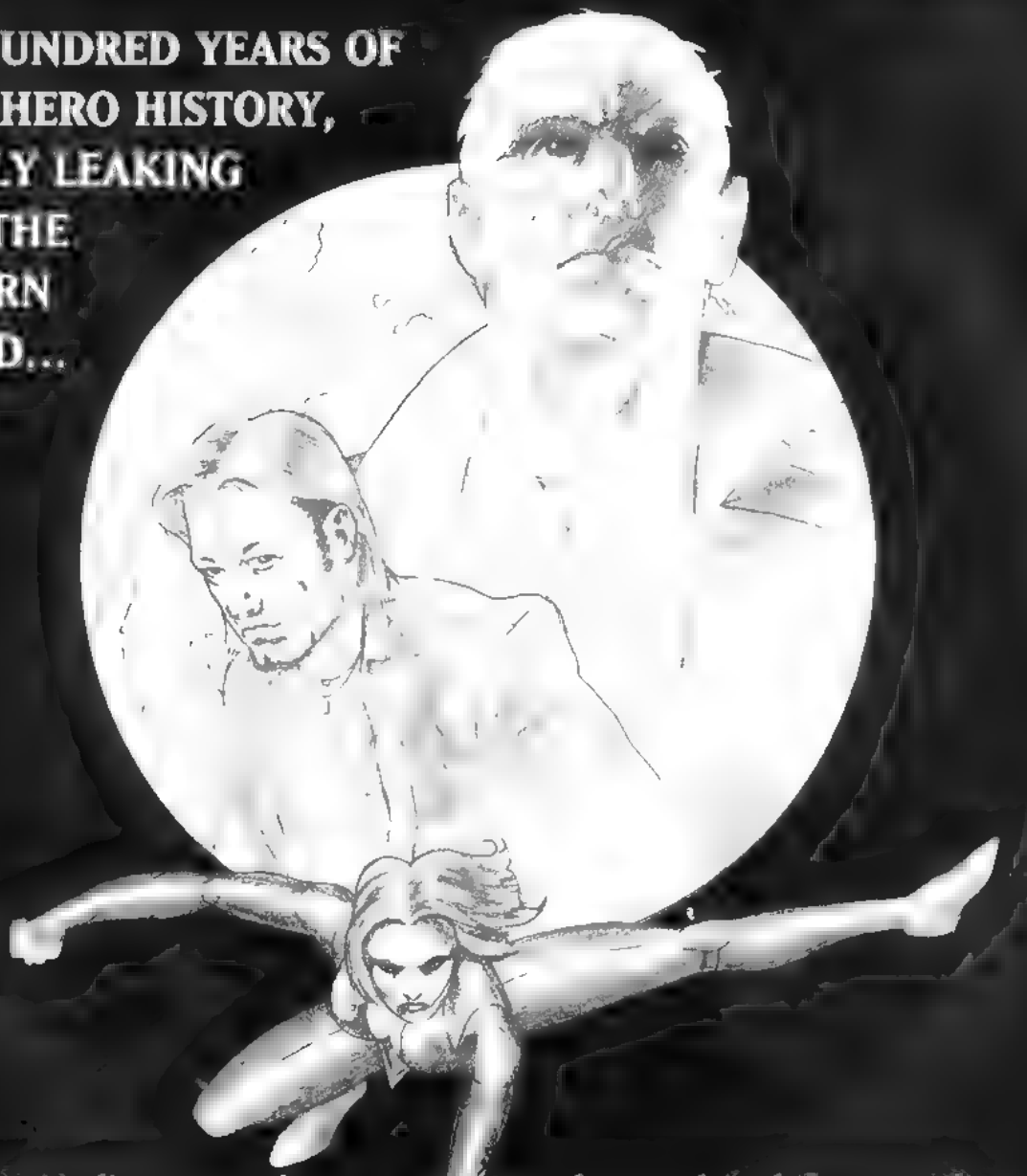
WARREN ELLIS • JOHN CASSADAY

PLANETARY

Image PREVIEW

PLANETARY™

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SUPERHERO HISTORY, SLOWLY LEAKING INTO THE MODERN WORLD...



Sometimes, ordinary people uncover things that are best left covered. Sometimes, things best left covered emerge into ordinary life and do not have the world's best interests at heart. These are the times when Planetary arrive —invited or not...

COMING IN JANUARY

PLANETARY PREVIEW, SEP. 1999. FIRST PRINTING. Image Comics, Inc. Office of Publication: 1440 Harbor Blvd., Suite 305, Fullerton, California 92633.
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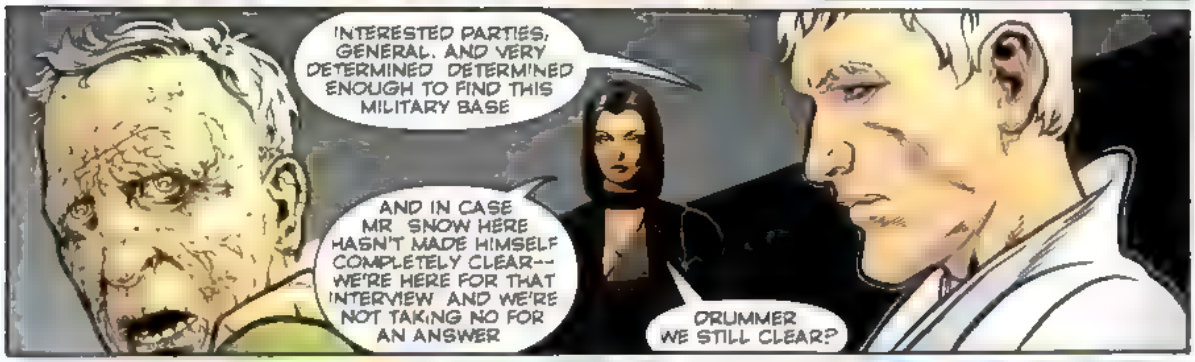
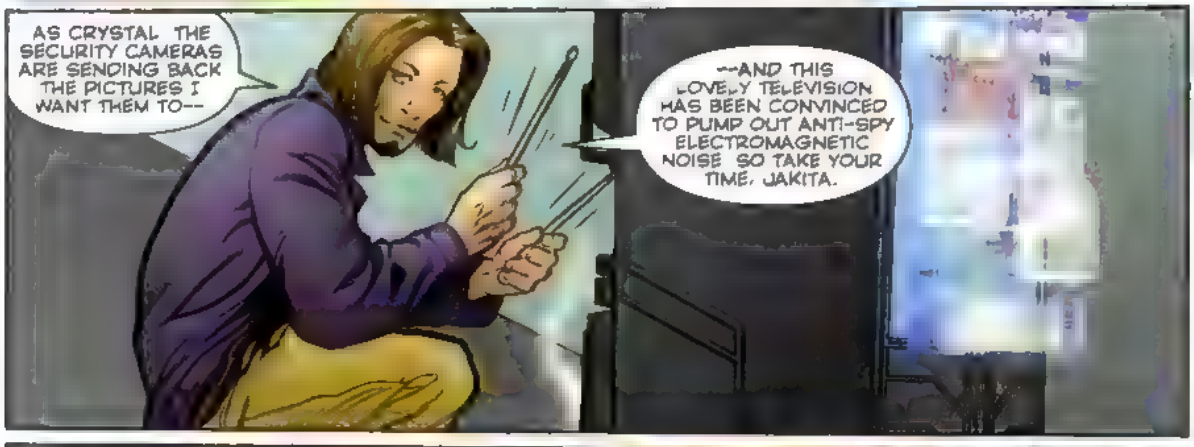
PLANETARY
YOU COME ON N BOYS HAVE A DRINK ON ME BEEN A LONG DAY
GENERAL, REALLY, WE SHOULDN'T--
WELL, NOW, YOU PUT YOUR REALLYS AND SHOULDN'TS AWAY I DON'T HOLD WITH 'EM
GOOD EVENING GENERAL
"NUCLEAR SPRING"
WARREN ELLIS
WRITER
JOHN CASSADAY
ARTIST
LAURA DEPUY
COLOR ARTIST
AMIE GRENIER
LETTERER
SCOTT DUNBIER
EDITOR
For
Adam Kubert

BOYS

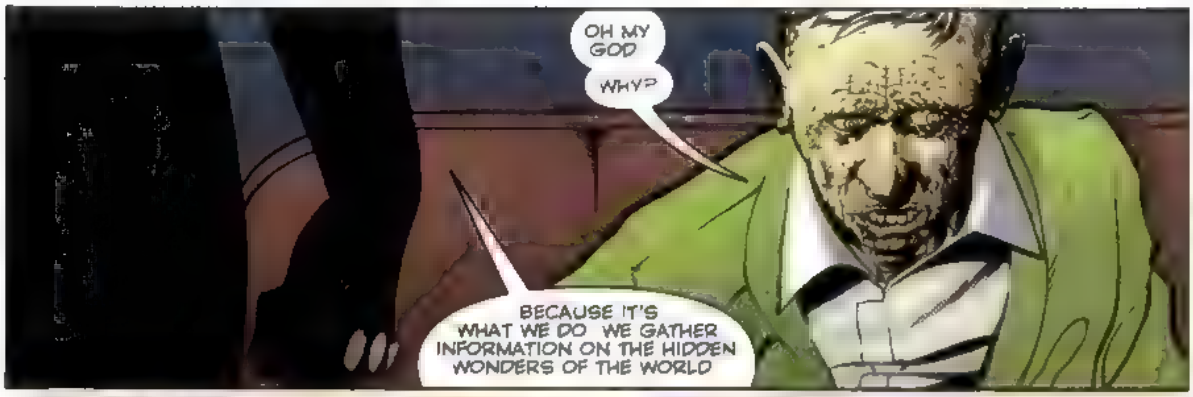
DON'T
LAY DOWN, EMPTY THE GUN, CUFF YOURSELF, TRY VERY HARD TO GO TO SLEEP
OR ELSE

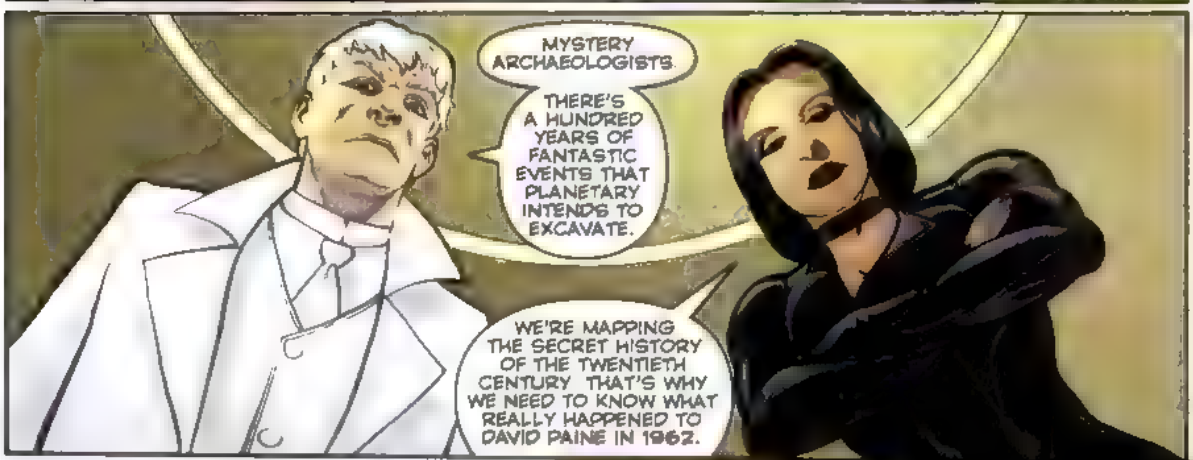
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU PEOPLE? DAMNIT, THIS BASE DOESN'T EVEN EXIST! HOW'D YOU FIND IT?
PLANETARY, GENERAL WE CONTACTED YOU MANY TIMES
AND I HAD MY OFFICES IN D.C. TURN YOU DOWN FLAT DON'T HOLD WITH DOING GODDAMNED INTERVIEWS WITH--
--HELL, WE NEVER EVEN WORKED OUT WHO YOU PEOPLE WERE!

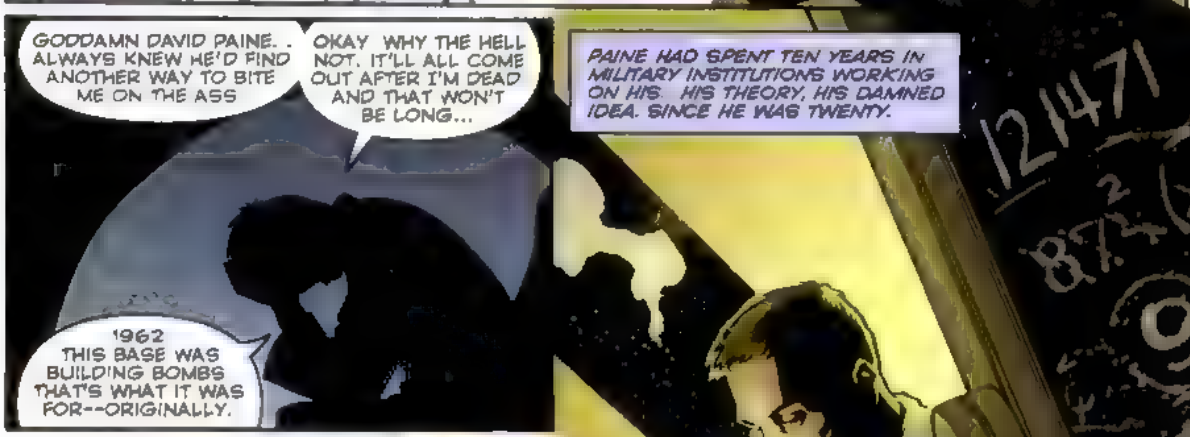

INTERESTED PARTIES, GENERAL. AND VERY DETERMINED DETERMINED ENOUGH TO FIND THIS MILITARY BASE
AND IN CASE MR SNOW HERE HASN'T MADE HIMSELF COMPLETELY CLEAR-- WE'RE HERE FOR THAT INTERVIEW AND WE'RE NOT TAKING NO FOR AN ANSWER
DRUMMER WE STILL CLEAR?

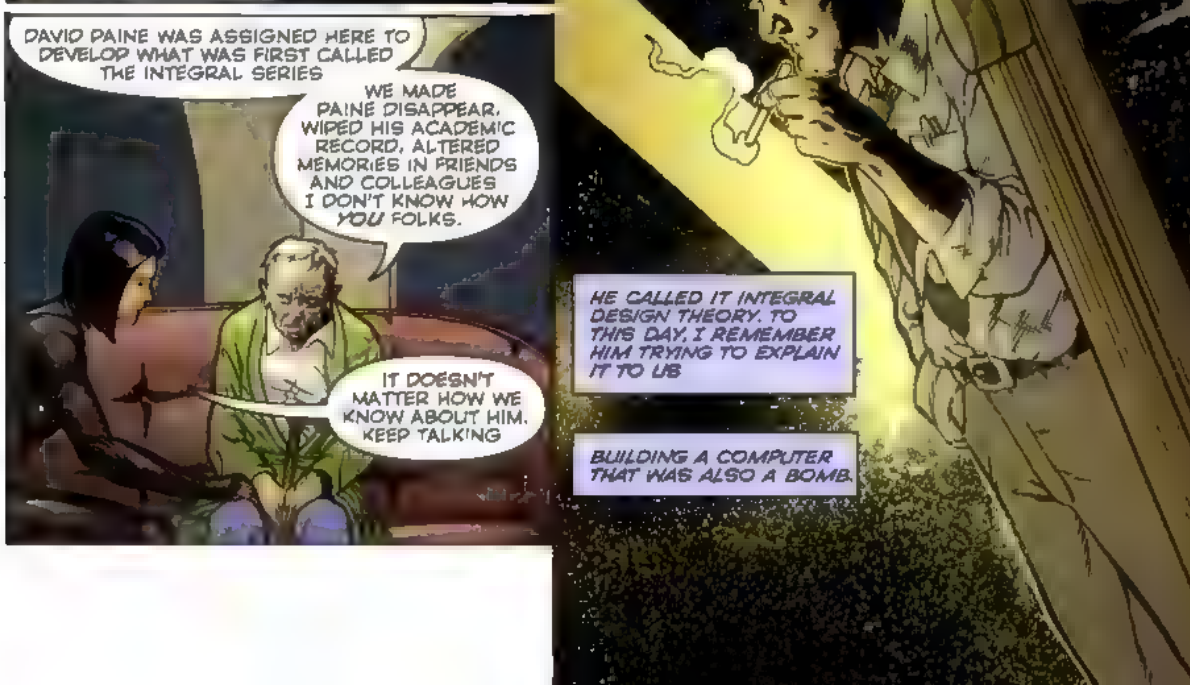

AS CRYSTAL THE SECURITY CAMERAS ARE SENDING BACK THE PICTURES I WANT THEM TO--
--AND THIS LOVELY TELEVISION HAS BEEN CONVINCED TO PUMP OUT ANTI-SPY ELECTROMAGNETIC NOISE SO TAKE YOUR TIME, JAKITA.

WE'RE PLANETARY, GENERAL. MY NAME IS JAKITA WAGNER THIS IS ELIJAH SNOW, AND THE MAN TRYING HARD NOT TO HUMP YOUR TV IS THE DRUMMER.
WE'RE HERE TO TALK ABOUT DAVID PAINE


OH MY GOD
WHY?
BECAUSE IT'S WHAT WE DO WE GATHER INFORMATION ON THE HIDDEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD

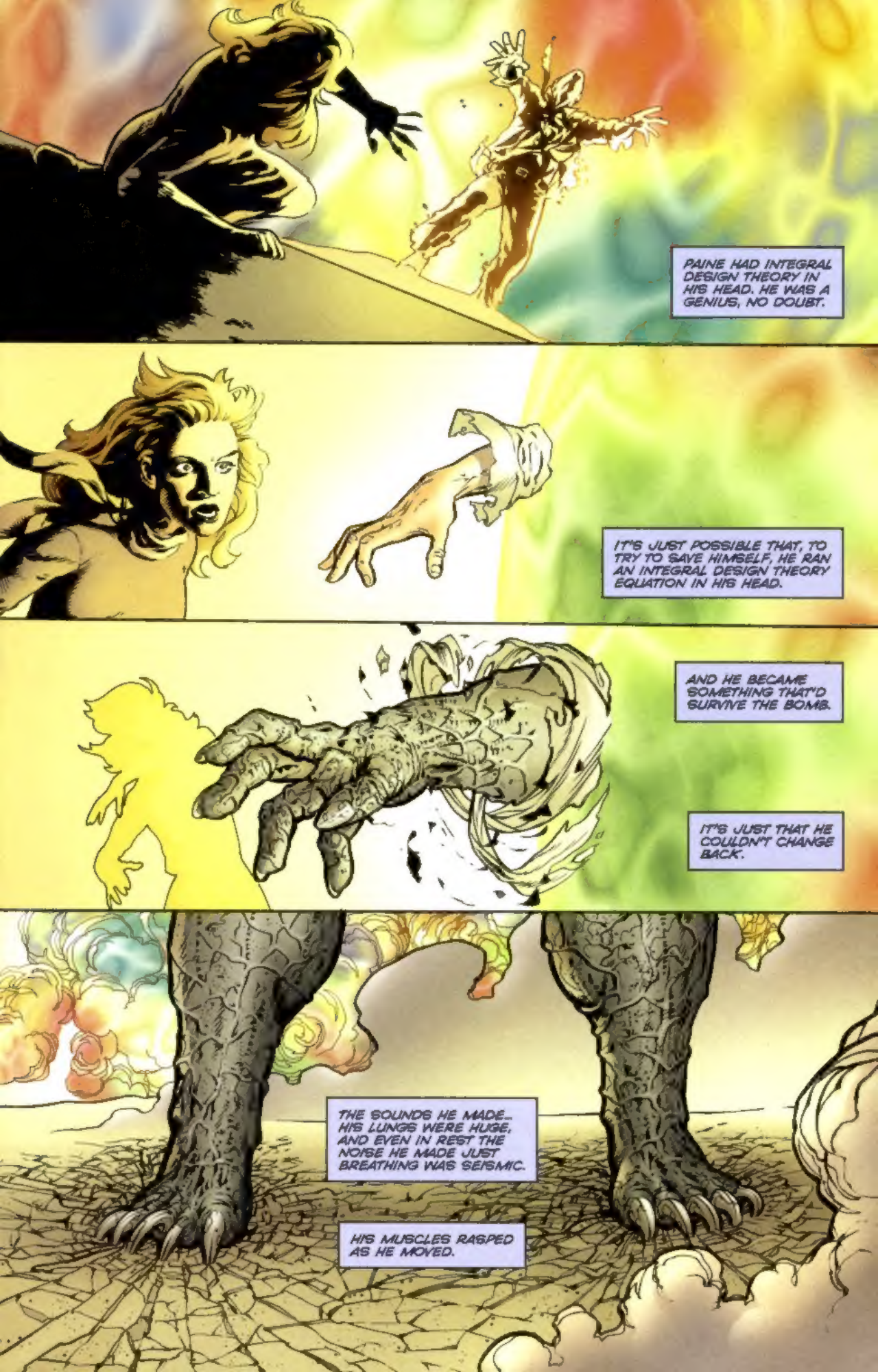

MYSTERY ARCHAEOLOGISTS.
THERE'S A HUNDRED YEARS OF FANTASTIC EVENTS THAT PLANETARY INTENDS TO EXCAVATE.
WE'RE MAPPING THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO DAVID PAINE IN 1962.

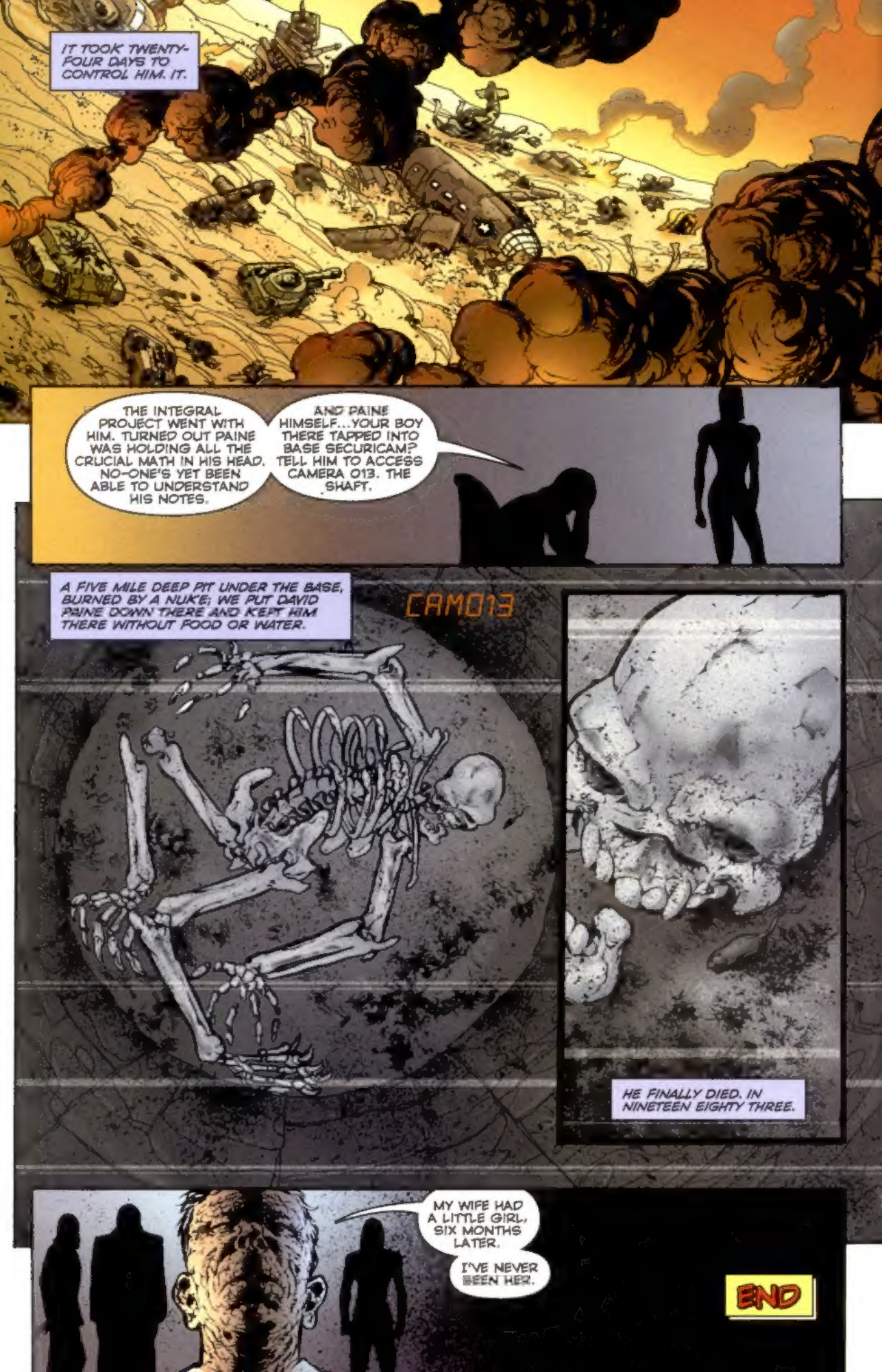

GODDAMN DAVID PAINE. . ALWAYS KNEW HE'D FIND ANOTHER WAY TO BITE ME ON THE ASS
OKAY WHY THE HELL NOT. IT'LL ALL COME OUT AFTER I'M DEAD AND THAT WON'T BE LONG...
1962 THIS BASE WAS BUILDING BOMBS THAT'S WHAT IT WAS FOR--ORIGINALLY.
PAINE HAD SPENT TEN YEARS IN MILITARY INSTITUTIONS WORKING ON HIS HIS THEORY, HIS DAMNED IDEA. SINCE HE WAS TWENTY.


DAVID PAINE WAS ASSIGNED HERE TO DEVELOP WHAT WAS FIRST CALLED THE INTEGRAL SERIES
WE MADE PAINE DISAPPEAR, WIPED HIS ACADEMIC RECORD, ALTERED MEMORIES IN FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOLKS.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW WE KNOW ABOUT HIM. KEEP TALKING
HE CALLED IT INTEGRAL DESIGN THEORY. TO THIS DAY, I REMEMBER HIM TRYING TO EXPLAIN IT TO US
BUILDING A COMPUTER THAT WAS ALSO A BOMB.

A BRAIN THAT PLUGGED INTO THE MACHINERY OF THE UNIVERSE, AND MOVED COGS AND LEVERS UNTIL SOMETHING CHANGED.
HE COULD LITERALLY REACH BEHIND THE SCENES AND MONKEY WITH THE UNIVERSE. HE COULD MAKE THINGS GO AWAY.
PEOPLE. CITIES. COUNTRIES.
SOUNDS A LOT LIKE DESCRIPTION THEORY; BUT THAT WAS ONLY DISCOVERED EARLIER THIS YEAR...
MY GOD. YOU THINK PAINE INDEPENDENTLY DISCOVERED DESCRIPTION THEORY THIRTY-FIVE YEARS EARLY?
AND MADE A BOMB WITH IT.
YEAH, PAINE WAS A WONDER, WASN'T HE? EVERYONE THOUGHT SO. EVEN MY GODDAMN WIFE.
BECAUSE HE WAS A WONDER. HE WAS A COLD WARRIOR, LIKE JOHN GLENN OR JFK. IN SINGLE COMBAT WITH THE COMMIE BRAINS.
BOMB-MAKERS COULD BE HEROES, IN 1962.
DEVICE NINE WAS THE BIG ONE. IT WAS GOING TO OBLITERATE A SQUARE MILE OF DESERT.
PAINE WOULD MUTTER ABOUT "CREATING A QUANTUM BOX", "ROTATING THINGS OUT OF REALITY", "EXPERIMENTER'S INTENT".
9
MY WIFE PICKED A HELL OF A DAY TO GO LOOKING FOR HIM.

COURSE, PAINE WASN'T ON THE TEST SITE. HE WAS IN THE CONTROL ROOM, A MILE AND A HALF AWAY.
THE CAMERAS PICKED HER UP.
AND PAINE, THE COLD WAR HERO, SINGLE COMBAT WARRIOR, WENT OUT TO GET HER.
NO-ONE THOUGHT TO PAUSE DEVICE NINE'S COUNTDOWN.
NOT EVEN ME.
THERE HE WAS, IN SINGLE COMBAT WITH HIS OWN BOMB, TRYING TO GET MY WIFE OUT OF HIS GOD-DAMNED QUANTUM BOX--
9
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO PAINE. WHY IT HAPPENED.
BUT THERE'S A THEORY. ALWAYS IS, AIN'T THERE?


PAINE HAD INTEGRAL DESIGN THEORY IN HIS HEAD. HE WAS A GENIUS, NO DOUBT.
IT'S JUST POSSIBLE THAT, TO TRY TO SAVE HIMSELF, HE RAN AN INTEGRAL DESIGN THEORY EQUATION IN HIS HEAD.
AND HE BECAME SOMETHING THAT'D SURVIVE THE BOMB.
IT'S JUST THAT HE COULDN'T CHANGE BACK.
THE SOUNDS HE MADE... HIS LUNGS WERE HUGE, AND EVEN IN REST THE NOISE HE MADE JUST BREATHING WAS SEISMIC.
HIS MUSCLES RASPED AS HE MOVED.


IT TOOK TWENTY-FOUR DAYS TO CONTROL HIM. IT.
THE INTEGRAL PROJECT WENT WITH HIM. TURNED OUT PAINE WAS HOLDING ALL THE CRUCIAL MATH IN HIS HEAD. NO-ONE'S YET BEEN ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HIS NOTES.
AND PAINE HIMSELF...YOUR BOY THERE TAPPED INTO BASE SECURICAM? TELL HIM TO ACCESS CAMERA 013. THE SHAFT.
A FIVE MILE DEEP PIT UNDER THE BASE, BURNED BY A NUKE; WE PUT DAVID PAINE DOWN THERE AND KEPT HIM THERE WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER.
CAM013
HE FINALLY DIED. IN NINETEEN EIGHTY THREE.
MY WIFE HAD A LITTLE GIRL, SIX MONTHS LATER.
I'VE NEVER BEEN HER.
END